

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of automatically communicating with other vehicles, comprising:
 - determining, by a first vehicle, whether other vehicles are within short range communication range of the first vehicle;
 - filtering, by the first vehicle, of the other vehicles within short range communication range based on whether the other vehicles are traveling along a same or similar travel path; and
 - establishing communication with one or more of the other vehicles based on the filtering in the filtering step.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises determining other vehicles which are within range of Dedicated Shortwave Radio Communications (DSRC) communication for a period of time.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the filtering step comprises determining other vehicles which have a similar travel vector as the first vehicle.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the filtering step further comprises determining other vehicles which have a similar travel vector for at least a predetermined number of travel segments.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined number of travel segments is 3.
6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the first vehicle establishes handshake communication with one of the other vehicles and then

waits for a second predetermined number of travel segments before beginning regular communications with the one of the other vehicles.

7. The method according to claim 2, wherein the determining step comprises determining other vehicles which are within DSRC communication range on a moving basis based on a moving position of the first vehicle.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the determining step comprises determining other vehicles within DSRC communication range when an ignition switch of the first vehicle is in an on position.

9. The method according to claim 3, wherein the similar travel vector is determined based on a predetermined maximum separation distance between the first vehicle and the other vehicles.

10. The method according to claim 3, wherein the similar travel vector is determined based on a change in position data of the first vehicle and the other vehicles.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of establishing communication comprises sending and receiving information at the first vehicle to or from one or more of the other vehicles.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the information comprises one or more of map information, game information, audio or video data streams, instant messaging information, any other digital data files.

13. A system for a first vehicle to automatically communicate with other vehicles, comprising:

a short range communication unit for the first vehicle to communicate with other vehicles which are within range of the short range communication unit associated with the first vehicle;

a positioning determination system for determining a position of the first vehicle; and

a control unit for filtering, by the first vehicle, of the other vehicles based on a distance of the other vehicles and whether the other vehicles are traveling along a same or similar travel path,

wherein the short range communication unit establishes communication with one or more of the other vehicles filtered by the control unit.

14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the control unit determines whether the other vehicles are within range of Dedicated Shortwave Radio Communications (DSRC) communication for a period of time.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the control unit determines whether the other vehicles have a similar travel vector as the first vehicle.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control unit determines which other vehicles have a similar travel vector as the first vehicle for at least a predetermined number of travel segments.

17. The system according to claim 16, where the predetermined number is 3.

18. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control unit establishes handshake communication with one of the other vehicles and

then waits for a second predetermined number of travel segments before beginning regular communications with the one of the other vehicles.

19. The system according to claim 14, wherein the control unit determines whether the other vehicles are in range for DSRC communication on a moving basis based on a moving position of the first vehicle.

20 The system according to claim 14, wherein the control unit determines whether other vehicles are within DSRC communication range only when the ignition switch is in an on position.

21. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control unit determines the similar travel vector based on a predetermined maximum separation distance between the first vehicle and the other vehicles.

22. The system according to claim 15, wherein the control unit determines the similar travel vector based on a change in position data of the first vehicle and the other vehicles.

23. The system according to claim 13, wherein the control unit establishes communication with the one or more of the other vehicles to send and receive information to and from the one or more of the other vehicles.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein the information comprises one or more of map information, game information, audio or video data streams, instant messaging information, and other digital data files.

25. The system according to claim 13, wherein the short range communication unit comprises a radio communication unit.

26. A system for a first vehicle to automatically communicate with other vehicles, comprising:

short range communication means for the first vehicle to communicate with other vehicles which are within range of the short range communication means associated with the first vehicle;

means for determining a position of the first vehicle; and

a control means for filtering, by the first vehicle, of the other vehicles based on a distance of the other vehicles and whether the other vehicles are traveling along a same or similar travel path,

wherein the short range communication means establishes communication with one or more of the other vehicles filtered by the control means.

27. A system for a first vehicle to communicate with other vehicles comprising:

short range communication means for the first vehicle to communicate with other vehicles which are within range of short range communication means associated with the first vehicle;

means for manually inputting a vehicle ID of second vehicle with which the first vehicle desires to communicate,

wherein the short range communication means establishes communication with the second vehicle based on the vehicle ID inputted in the first vehicle.